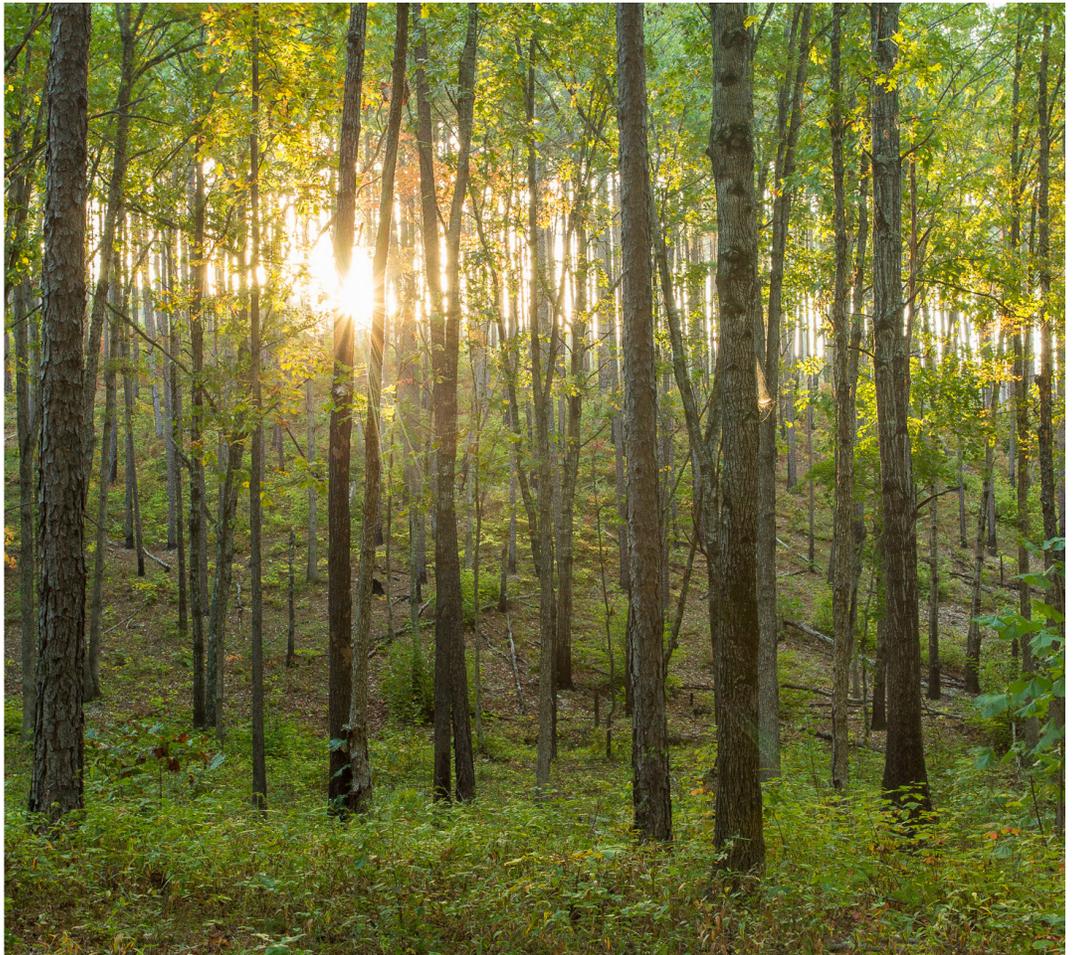


Missouri's fish, forests, and wildlife are among our most valuable resources and contribute to clean air, water, and agricultural lands that support us all. Our quality of life, outdoor heritage, and prosperity are tied to the health and sustainability of these treasures. Nature benefits Missourians in countless ways:

- ▶ Increases quality family time and outdoor traditions
- ▶ Provides outdoor recreation such as fishing, hunting, birdwatching, camping, biking, boating, hiking, and more
- ▶ Improves physical and mental health
- ▶ Instills a conservation ethic in the next generation



Conservation is good for Missouri's jobs, economy, and quality of life.

Missourians hold their resources dear, and they show their support through their comments, their votes, and their participation in outdoor recreation. The Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA) presents an opportunity to ensure future generations of Missourians will continue to enjoy the benefits and opportunities these resources offer.

- ▶ More than one-fourth of Missouri tourism dollars are spent on outdoor recreation.
- ▶ Missouri has more than 1 million anglers, 576,000 hunters, and 1.7 million wildlife watchers.
- ▶ The more than \$12 billion annual economic impact of Missouri's outdoor industry supports more than 99,000 jobs.
- ▶ Missourians and visitors spend \$3 billion annually in Missouri on outdoor recreation, which is on par with the cash receipts for cattle and calves in Missouri.
- ▶ Outdoor recreation generates more than \$428 million annually in state and local tax revenue.
- ▶ 95 percent of Missourians are interested in their fish, forests, and wildlife.

KEEP *Missouri* HABITATS HEALTHY

mdc.mo.gov



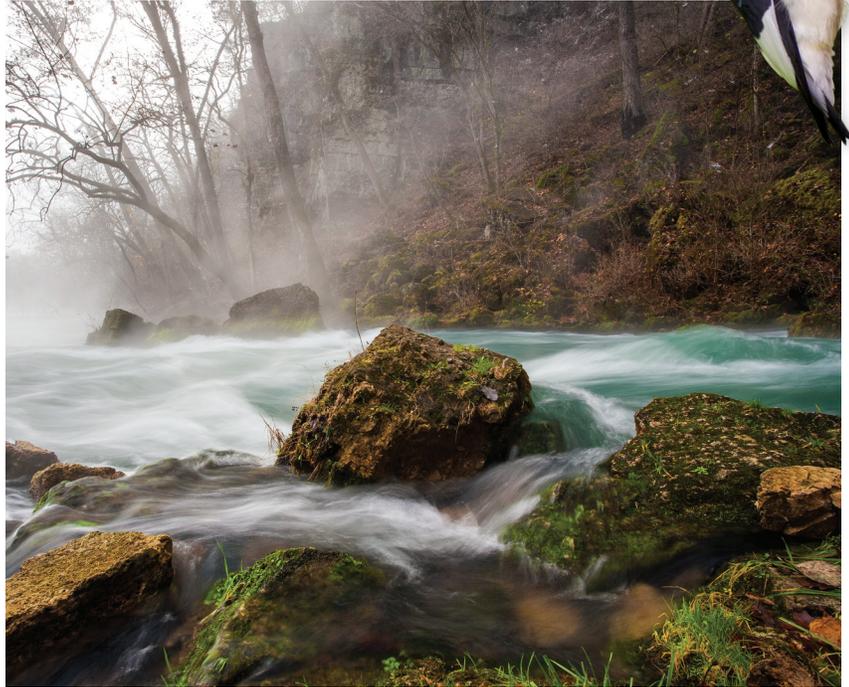
Serving nature and you[®]

MISSOURI 8TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Congressman Jason Smith



The 8th District has the largest blocks of wildlands and the most diverse fish and wildlife in Missouri. Scenic rivers and the extensively forested Ozarks provide unique habitat and sustain important timber and outdoor recreation industries. The Mississippi lowlands are important for a variety of birds, including waterfowl and migratory songbirds.



- DISTRICT 8
- Terrestrial Conservation Opportunity Area
- Aquatic Conservation Opportunity Area
- Priority Geographies

Healthy Habitats Continue to Grow with Continued Funding

How will Missouri use the \$25.2 million annually from the Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA)?

- ▶ Missouri's Comprehensive Conservation Strategy identifies 59 conservation opportunity areas in the 8th District. MDC, with state, federal, and non-governmental partners, has identified these areas as the best places to sustain Missouri's fish, forest, and wildlife resources. This plan focuses resources on achieving meaningful conservation results.
- ▶ MDC and partners are giving the highest priority to maintaining and restoring habitats in three of these areas:
 - Shoal Creek Woodlands – focusing on woodlands and forests to provide healthy streams in Huzzah and Courtois creeks
 - Mahan's Creek – focusing on forests, woodlands, and healthy streams
 - River Bends – focusing on bottomland forest and wetland floodplain landscapes
- ▶ In each of the priority areas MDC is partnering to get results:
 - Working with private landowners to manage grasslands, woodlands, forests, glades, wetlands, and streams to the benefit of both the landowner and wildlife by providing higher cost-share percentages and special programs in these areas; controlling invasive plant and animal species, such as feral hogs; and supporting streambank stabilization projects.
 - Restoring and managing habitat on public lands
- ▶ RAWA funds would allow MDC and our partners to meet strategic goals in more conservation opportunity areas:
 - Providing healthier habitats, improving air and water quality, and supporting outdoor recreation on more landscapes
 - Working with more private landowners to enhance habitats while meeting their goals
 - Addressing invasive species, including feral hogs, bush honeysuckle, and sericea lespedeza, in more areas
 - Increasing the economic impact of outdoor recreation and the forest products industry
- ▶ RAWA would also allow:
 - More partnerships (e.g. Missouri Division of Tourism and local chambers of commerce) to expand conservation outreach and outdoor recreation opportunities
 - Greater security for Missouri's fish, forest, and wildlife species, making them less likely to need federal Endangered Species Act protections